

**James Monroe to Thomas Jefferson, May 4, 1794, from
Thomas Jefferson and James Monroe Correspondence,
Transcribed and Edited by Gerard W. Gawalt,
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James Monroe to Thomas Jefferson

Phila. May 4: 1794.

Dear Sir

Yours of April 24th reached me yesterday. Since my last the proposition of Mr. Clarke for prohibiting the importation of British goods untill the posts shall be surrendered & compensation made for the depredation in our trade, was rejected in the Senate. Upon the question the first section wh determined the fate of the bill , Jackson and Bradley withdrew which left us 11 only against 14 in consequence of wh. every sect. Was negatived, yet a question was notwithstanding taken whether the bill shod. be read a 3rd time and in favor which these gentn. voted, & Ross the successor of Gallatin taking into his head now to withdraw, the house was equally divided & the casting vote given by the V. President agnst it. Thus the bill was lost, the most mature and likely to succeed of all the propositions respecting G. Britn. Wh have been presented before the legislature during the session. Its fate may be ascribed to an executive manœuvre for whilst it was depending in the Rept. Branch & obviously a great majority in its favor, the nomination of Mr. Jay was introduc'd, as Envoy Extry. For the British court. From that moment it was manifest-the measure wod be lost, and altho' it passed the other branch & perhaps with greater vote than would have been the case, had not the sense of the Senate been clearly indicated by the approbation

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of the nomination, yet it was plain the prospect of success was desperate. An Extry. Mission was a measure of conciliation, it was urged; prohibitory

regulations were of a different character & woud defeat its object. Thus you find nothing has been carried agnst that nation but on the contrary the most submissive measure adopted that cod. be dvised, to court her favor & degrade our character.

Tis said that the Envoy will be armed with extry. powers, that authority to form a commercel treaty with likewise be comprized with his instructions. Under a similar power upon a former occasion, granted too my implication only, this person had well nigh bartered away the Mississippi. What then may we not expect from him upon this present crisis, when the power is expressly granted and the fortune of the party whose agent he is, may be considered as hazarded in the success of his mission? After degrading our country by shewing to the world, that they were more willing to confide in retribution & from their justice & favor, than from the strength of our union & the decision of our councils, will this man return baffled in the interprise & seeke to atone for himself & those who sent him, to the community, by owning his and their folly which had exposed us to such humiliation? And when it is considered that Britain contemplates the conquest of the French & perhaps afterwards of the Spn. Islands, & the downfal of the Spn. Power in this region of the world- a course of policy which will part her not only from Spn. But perhaps from the present combination of powers, is it not probable she

will be disposed to seeke an alliance here as well for the purpose of aiding her in these projects as detaching us from France? Some symtoms of discontent have already appeared in the Spn. cabinet and then it is probable will be increased when the conquest of Britn. In the Islands is attended to and his views become further developed. The circumstances of sending an envoy to negotiate with Engld. at the time that the minister of France on the ground & cloathed with similar powers, is only amused with acts of civility, shews that a connection with the former power is the real object of the Executive.

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The present French minsiter expressed lately the wish of his country that G. Morris shod. be recalled & in consequence arrangmt. are making for that purpose. Being forced to send a republican character the admin. was reduc'd to the dilemma of selecting from among its enemies or rather than appoint principles, a person who wod. be acceptable to that nation. The offer of the station has been presented to Mr. Livingston as I hear in a letter written by the President. Tis thot he will accept it. Burr's name was mentioned to Randolph but with the success that was previously expected, indeed it was not urged in preference to the others, but only noted for consideration. I thank you for the intilligence respecting my farm near you. I think we shall adjourn in abt. 3 weeks after wh. I shall immediately proceed home. Mrs. M. joins in best wishes for yr. health & that of yr. family & servant Jas. Monroe

RC (Jefferson Papers, Library of Congress).